

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 188007
ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY KABUL
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188007

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN AMBASSADOR KARIM'S MEETING WITH FALCO,
(S/NM), AUGUST 4

SUMMARY: DURING GET-ACQUAINTED MEETING WITH MS FALCO
(S/NM) KARIM RECEIVED BRIEFING ON US PERCEPTIONS OF
AFGHANISTAN'S NARCOTICS PROBLEM. KARIM SAID HIS GOVERNMENT
CONCERNED BY PROBLEM, WANTS DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BUT
NEEDS MORE ASSISTANCE. IN THIS REGARD WAHEED ABDULLAH
MIGHT BRING PROPOSALS TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN
SEPTEMBER. US PARTICIPANTS STRESSED NEED TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT COMING YEARCROP AND DESIREABILITY JOINT COMMISSION
ON NARCOTICS DEALING WITH PROBLEMS IN ALL OPIUM PRODUCING
PROVINCES. SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD ISSUE
A STATEMENT ON NARCOTICS BEFORE PLANTING SEASON BEGINS.

1. AFGHAN AMBASSADOR KARIM ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER TURABAZ
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 188007

CALLED ON MS FALCO (S/NM) ON AUGUST 4. OTHER PARTICIPANTS
WERE CHARLES O'KEEFFE (WHITE HOUSE), MARTIN CHESHES (S/NM)
AND MICHAEL HORNBLOW (NEA/PAB). AFTER OPENING AMENITIES
FALCO DESCRIBED HER ROLE AND STRESSED SECRETARY VANCE
SHARED PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ABOUT NARCOTICS. SHE HANDED
KARIM A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S DRUG MESSAGE AND
SAID US PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE IN

FIRST MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS. WE RECOGNIZE THIS WILL BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS. IN BOTH BURMA AND MEXICO WE BEGAN WITH SPECIFIC AREAS AND EXPANDED. WE HOPE THAT SIMILAR PROGRESS WILL TAKE PLACE IN AFGHANISTAN.

2. KARIM REPLIED HE DID NOT HAVE DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF AFGHANISTAN'S NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND OF SPECIFIC MEASURES HIS GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING. IN GENERAL HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED TO WORK WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO LIMIT CULTIVATION OF OPIUM AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF DRUGS. HE SAID MAIN DRUG PRODUCING AREAS WERE BADAKSHAN, NANGAHAR AND THE HELMAND. IN FIRST TWO PROVINCES THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES SINCE THE INHABITANTS SURVIVED ON OUTCOME OF OPIUM CULTIVATION. THEREFORE A SUBSTITUTE CROP HAD TO BE FOUND. IN BADAKSHAN A LONG TERM PROGRAM IS NEEDED TO DEVELOP THE AREA. AFGHANISTAN HAD LIMITED MEANS AND COULD NOT DO IT ALONE. THEY WOULD NEED THE HELP OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. AT PRESENT AFGHANISTAN IS NOT RECEIVING SUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE. AFGHANISTAN IS DETERMINED TO STOP OPIUM CULTIVATION AND TRAFFICKING BUT NEEDS MORE ASSISTANCE AND HELP. AT AFGHANISTAN'S INITIATIVE A JOINT COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO DISCUSS PROBLEM AND FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO STOP TRAFFICKING AND CONTROL CULTIVATION.
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 188007

3. AMBASSADOR KARIM SAID HE WAS PLEASED PRESIDENT CARTER HAD STATED US IS READY TO HELP AFGHANISTAN. HE HAD REPORTED PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND WOULD ALSO REPORT MS. FALCO'S MESSAGE. KARIM THEN ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON SORT OF ASSISTANCE US HAD PROVIDED OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS TURKEY AND PAKISTAN IN NARCOTICS FIELD. HE SAID HE WOULD STUDY ANY INFORMATION US COULD PROVIDE HIM AND WOULD FOLLOW THESE MATTERS WITH GREAT INTEREST AND REPORT ANY SUGGESTIONS TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. MR. O'KEEFFE SAID US AND AFGHANISTAN HAD ALWAYS HAD A GOOD DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT IN PAST AND BOTH SIDES HAD BEEN ABLE TO OPENLY EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS. IN THIS SPIRIT HE WANTED TO SAY THAT PROBLEMS IN NANGAHAR WERE VERY DIFFERENT THAN PROBLEMS IN BADAKSHAN AND US IS CONCERNED BY THE LARGE INCREASE IN CULTIVATION THERE. IN NANGAHAR THERE ARE LARGE POPPY FIELDS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO MAIN KABUL-PESHAWAR ROAD. THIS INCREASE IN CULTIVATION IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TO AFGHANISTAN ITSELF WHICH IS BARELY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

5. O'KEEFFE NOTED INVOLVEMENT INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL ELE-

MENTS IN NARCOTICS. IT IS POSSIBLE THESE ELEMENTS COULD BE ATTRACTED TO AFGHANISTAN. THE US CAN'T CONTROL ORGANIZED CRIME AND AFGHANISTAN IS NOT BETTER EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM THAN WE ARE. O'KEEFFE SAID HE WAS DISTURBED THAT JOINT COMMISSION IS NOT READY TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN THE NANGAHAR REGION. HE SAID US AWARE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS THERE BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION TO AT LEAST TALK ABOUT NANGAHAR AND OTHER AREAS AS WELL.

6. OKEEFFE SAID THAT FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS PRODUCTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 188007

HAS DOUBLED IN REGION. OPIUM PRODUCTION NOW IS ALMOST EQUAL TO PRODUCTION IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE. CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ARE CAPABLE OF CONVERTING OPIUM INTO MORPHINE-BASED HEROIN IN BORDER AREAS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TALK TO EACH OTHER OPENLY ABOUT ALL THESE PROBLEMS. O'KEEFFE ADDED US WOULD BE PLEASED TO ASSIST THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IN DOING AERIAL SURVEYS AND STRESSED THE SURVEY COULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE AFGHANS THEMSELVES. THIS WOULD PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE ON THE EXTENT OF OPIUM PRODUCTION. WE HAVE NOT CLOSED THE DOOR ON PROJECTS IN BADAKSHAN, KONAR OR EVEN KABUL. WHAT THE US WANTS TO DO IS WORK WITH YOU.

7. KARIM INDICATED THE AFGHAN SIDE HAD PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROJECT PROPOSALS DURING THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. HE THANKED O'KEEFFE FOR SAYING US IS WILLING TO HELP. HE SAID THAT BEFORE LEAVING KABUL HE HAD DISCUSSED THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WITH EVERYBODY. HIS GOVERNMENT SHARES USG CONCERN AND IS READY TO DO SOMETHING. KARIM SAID HE WAS PLEASED WE HAD RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH PUSHTUN TRIBES AND HIS GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ANY PROPOSALS THE USG MIGHT HAVE IN THIS REGARD AND TO COMMUNICATE THEM TO HIS OWN GOVERNMENT.

8. KARIM NOTED THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WAS PERSONALLY VERY CONCERNED BY PROBLEM, THAT THE DOORS WERE OPEN FOR ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN BUT THAT HE IS NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL MATTERS. KARIM MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE ALSO DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS TRAFFIC THROUGH AFGHANISTAN.

9. KARIM SAID BEFORE LEAVING KABUL HE ON OWN INITIATIVE HAD PROPOSED TWO JOINT COMMISSIONS. THE FIRST JOINT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 188007

COMMISSION WAS AN INTERNAL ONE WITHIN AFGHAN GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, INTERIOR, COMMERCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FINANCE ETC. THE SECOND JOINT COMMISSION IS ONE WITH THE US AND THE UN. O'KEEFFE PRESSED FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE COMMISSION TO

INCLUDE OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS.

10. AMBASSADOR KARIM THEN ALLUDED TO WAHEED ABDULLAH'S UPCOMING VISIT AND SAID ABDULLAH MIGHT BRING WITH HIM SOME PROPOSALS TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. KARIM CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT HE HAD COMMUNICATED TO KABUL WHAT WAS SAID DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH CHRISTOPHER, THE PRESIDENT AND HABIB AND WOULD COMMUNICATE WHAT WAS SAID AT TODAY'S MEETING.

11. MS FALCO REFERRED TO PROGRAMS US HAS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND SAID ENFORCEMENT OF BANS ON CULTIVATION IS CRITICAL BECAUSE OTHERWISE THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANGE IN SITUATION.

12. O'KEEFFE SAID HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT UPCOMING PLANTING SEASON BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR PRESIDENT DAOUD TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PEOPLE, JUST AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DONE IN HIS DRUG MESSAGE, THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN. SUCH A PUBLIC REAFFIRMATION OF DAOUD'S STRONG COMMITMENT COULD HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE ON THE PLANTING.

13. AMBASSADOR KARIM SAID HE WOULD PASS ON THIS SUGGESTION TO KABUL AND HE IS PLEASED WE ARE AWARE OF PRESIDENT DAOUD'S COMMITMENT TO SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO HEAR FROM PRESIDENT CARTER OF US WILLINGNESS TO HELP.

14. O'KEEFFE THEN DESCRIBED SITUATION IN BURMA AND HOW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 188007

ORGANIZED CRIME ASSISTING SHAN REBELS. O'KEEFFE SAID ORGANIZED CRIME RECOGNIZES NO BOUNDARIES AND ONCE THEY GET FOOT IN THE DOOR THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL.

IN SUMMARIZING MEETING MR. O'KEEFFE SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF SOMETHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT COMING YEARS CROP. IN THIS CONNECTION A STATEMENT FROM DAOUD WOULD BE

BENEFICIAL AND PERHAPS AMBASSADOR KARIM COULD USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO HAVE JOINT COMMISSION CONSIDER OTHER AREAS IN ADDITION TO HELMAND.

KARIM SAID THE JC WOULD DISCUSS AREAS OTHER THAN THE HELMAND.

15. COMMENT: MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND KARIM SEEMED EARNEST WHEN EXPRESSING GA'S CONCERNS ABOUT PROBLEM AND HIS OWN DESIRE TO LEARN DETAILS OF US SPONSORED DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS WAS GIVEN KARIM BY DESK OFFICER AUGUST 8.

IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH DESK OFFICER AFTER MEETING KARIM ASKED ABOUT US RESPONSE TO GA PL-480 REQUEST AND INDICATED AFGHAN ENTHUSIASM FOR DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS MIGHT DEPEND ON US RESPONSIVENESS TO SUCH ASSISTANCE REQUESTS.

EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW UP ON SUGGESTION THAT DAOUD OR GA ISSUE STATEMENT BEFORE BEGINNING OF PLANTING SEASON. ALSO WOULD LIKE EMBASSY CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT ABDULLAH WILL BE BRINGING NARCOTICS CONTROL PROPOSALS WITH HIM DURING UPCOMING UNGA VISIT.

CHRISTOPHER

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